



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 65

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 204

Senate, March 19, 2014

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. BARTOLOMEO of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPERS' EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,
2 2015, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Public Health, in
3 consultation with groups that have been actively involved in
4 community prevention, education and awareness of Lyme disease and
5 other tick-borne diseases, including, but not limited to, BLAST Lyme
6 Disease Prevention Program and various health districts in the state,
7 shall (1) identify or develop best practices for the prevention,
8 identification, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-
9 borne diseases, including, but not limited to, bartonellosis, babesiosis,
10 anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis; and (2) disseminate information on
11 Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases through the Department of
12 Public Health's Internet web site and printed materials published by
13 the department to notify members of the public of such best practices
14 and to increase coordination among the state, local government

15 agencies and health care providers in the state.

16 (b) Not later than July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the
17 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
18 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the
19 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
20 health and children on the status of the commissioner's initiatives
21 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than July 1,
23 2015, and annually thereafter, each youth camp licensed pursuant to
24 chapter 368r of the general statutes shall develop or approve a Lyme
25 disease education program utilizing the information disseminated by
26 the Department of Public Health pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1
27 of this act. Such program shall consist of written and oral components,
28 including, but not limited to, information regarding: (1) Identification
29 of ticks and other parasitic or potentially harmful insects; (2)
30 identification of early warning signs associated with Lyme disease and
31 other tick-borne diseases, including, but not limited to, bartonellosis,
32 babesiosis, anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis; (3) proper procedures for
33 campers to notify youth camp staff members of a suspected tick bite;
34 (4) proper methods of conducting tick checks; (5) proper methods for
35 removing ticks and other parasitic or potentially harmful insects,
36 including whether to dispose of or reserve the specimen for further
37 examination; and (6) current best practices for avoiding exposure to
38 ticks and other parasitic or potentially harmful insects.

39 (b) Prior to each new youth camp session, the director or assistant
40 director of the youth camp shall distribute the written components of
41 the education program developed or approved pursuant to subsection
42 (a) of this section to (1) each staff member who is a paid employee or
43 volunteer providing ongoing services at the youth camp, and (2) a
44 parent or legal guardian of each camper enrolled in the youth camp.

45 (c) Not later than the first day of each new youth camp session, the
46 director or assistant director of each youth camp shall present the oral
47 components of the education program developed or approved

48 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to (1) each staff member who
49 is a paid employee or volunteer providing ongoing services at the
50 youth camp, and (2) each camper enrolled in the youth camp.

51 (d) Not later than twenty-four hours after a camper reports a
52 suspected tick bite to a youth camp staff member, the director or
53 assistant director of the youth camp shall notify the camper's parent or
54 legal guardian or the emergency contact on file with the youth camp of
55 the report.

56 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than January 1,
57 2015, and annually thereafter, each youth camp licensed pursuant to
58 chapter 368r of the general statutes shall develop or approve a camper
59 injury and abuse education program. Such program shall consist of
60 written and oral components, including, but not limited to,
61 information regarding: (1) Physical injury, sexual abuse and emotional
62 abuse; (2) identification of the early warning signs associated with
63 such injury or abuse; (3) proper procedures for notifying the director,
64 assistant director, injury or abuse resource counselor or other staff
65 member at the youth camp of the suspected or actual injury or abuse of
66 a camper; and (4) current best practices for preventing and treating
67 injury or abuse in the youth camp setting.

68 (b) Prior to each new youth camp session, the director or assistant
69 director of the youth camp shall distribute the written components of
70 the education program developed or approved pursuant to subsection
71 (a) of this section to (1) each staff member who is a paid employee or
72 volunteer providing ongoing services at the youth camp, and (2) a
73 parent or legal guardian of each camper enrolled in the youth camp.

74 (c) Not later than the first day of each new youth camp session, the
75 director or assistant director of each youth camp shall present the oral
76 components of the education program developed or approved
77 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to (1) each staff member who
78 is a paid employee or volunteer providing ongoing services at the
79 youth camp, and (2) each camper enrolled in the youth camp.

80 (d) Each youth camp shall provide the option for any camper who is
81 attending the youth camp and who (1) is the victim of injury or abuse,
82 or (2) has witnessed a camper suffering injury or abuse or suspects that
83 a camper is the victim of injury or abuse, to report or disclose such
84 injury or abuse to such youth camp anonymously, provided
85 maintaining the confidentiality of such camper does not result in a
86 violation of state or federal law.

87 (e) Prior to each new youth camp session, the director or assistant
88 director of the youth camp shall designate a staff member at the youth
89 camp as an injury or abuse resource counselor. Not later than the first
90 day of each new youth camp session, the director or assistant director
91 of each youth camp shall identify the injury or abuse resource
92 counselor to all campers and describe to each camper the procedure
93 for contacting the counselor if any camper suffers injury or abuse or
94 suspects that a camper has suffered injury or abuse.

95 (f) Not later than twenty-four hours after a camper reports an
96 incident of injury or abuse, the director or assistant director of the
97 youth camp shall notify the camper's parent or legal guardian or the
98 camper's emergency contact on file with the youth camp of the report.

99 (g) No youth camp shall prohibit a camper from contacting his or
100 her parent or legal guardian or his or her emergency contact on file
101 with the youth camp within twelve hours of requesting to do so.

102 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) (1) Except as provided in
103 subsection (c) of this section, each youth camp licensed pursuant to
104 chapter 368r of the general statutes shall require each director or
105 assistant director who is (A) a paid employee, or (B) a volunteer
106 providing ongoing services at the youth camp to submit to state and
107 national criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with
108 section 29-17a of the general statutes prior to such director or assistant
109 director performing his or her duties at the youth camp.

110 (2) If such director or assistant director is performing his or her
111 duties at the youth camp on the effective date of this section, the youth

112 camp shall require such director or assistant director to submit to such
113 state and national criminal history records checks prior to the renewal
114 of the youth camp's license pursuant to chapter 368r of the general
115 statutes.

116 (3) The criminal history records checks required under this
117 subsection shall not be required for any director or assistant director
118 who (A) has successfully completed a state and national criminal
119 history records check for immigration purposes in accordance with
120 federal law not more than six months prior to the date such director or
121 assistant director (i) begins employment at the camp, or (ii) begins
122 volunteering at the camp, or (B) has previously submitted to state and
123 national criminal history records checks pursuant to subdivision (1) or
124 (2) of this subsection.

125 (b) (1) Each youth camp licensed pursuant to chapter 368r of the
126 general statutes shall require each director or assistant director who is
127 (A) a paid employee, or (B) a volunteer providing ongoing services at
128 the youth camp to certify to such youth camp that he or she is not
129 listed on the state child abuse or neglect registry established pursuant
130 to section 17a-101k of the general statutes prior to such director or
131 assistant director performing his or her duties at the youth camp.

132 (2) If such director or assistant director is performing his or her
133 duties at the youth camp on the effective date of this section, the youth
134 camp shall require such director or assistant director to certify to such
135 youth camp that he or she is not listed on the state child abuse or
136 neglect registry prior to the renewal of the youth camp's license
137 pursuant to chapter 368r of the general statutes.

138 (c) Pursuant to section 29-17a of the general statutes, the
139 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection may
140 charge a youth camp fees for conducting the state and national
141 criminal history records checks required under the provisions of
142 subsection (a) of this section.

143 (d) In the course of inspecting the facilities of a youth camp

144 pursuant to section 19a-426 of the general statutes, the Department of
145 Public Health shall verify that each director or assistant director of the
146 youth camp has (1) submitted to state and national criminal history
147 records checks pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2)
148 certified to such youth camp that he or she is not listed on the state
149 child abuse or neglect registry pursuant to subsection (b) of this
150 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Sec. 3(d), after "witnessed", "a camper suffering injury or abuse" was added for clarity, and in Sec. 4(a)(3), "subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection" was inserted in lieu of "subsection (a) of this section" for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	5,092	5,321
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	approx. 167,000	approx. 167,000
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	less than 23,000	less than 4,300
Department of Developmental Services	GF - Cost	less than 100	less than 60
Higher Education Constituent Units	GF - Cost	less than 250	less than 150
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	approx. 155,000	approx. 26,000

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Rocky Hill	STATE MANDATE - Cost	less than 1,200	less than 1,100

Explanation

The bill results in various costs and revenue detailed by bill section below.

Section 1 results in a cost of approximately \$152,360 annually to the Department of Public Health (DPH) associated with annual consultation of groups to identify and develop best practices for the prevention, identification, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease,

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.66% of payroll in FY 15 and FY 16.

other tick-borne diseases and one disease that is not tick-borne,² to work to increase coordination among various entities and to annually publish and disseminate materials to members of the public.

Annual contract costs to identify and develop best practices and increase coordination are estimated at approximately \$10,000 annually for 300 hours of work each year at \$32 an hour. As the bill requires DPH to annually disseminate printed materials to notify members of the public and as “members of the public” is not defined, it is unknown to what extent DPH will publish and disseminate materials. To the extent that DPH limits printing to 250,000 four-leaf, eight-page booklets, a cost of \$122,500 in FY 15 and FY 16 would result. Shipping and handling costs to distribute these booklets are estimated to be \$19,860 for a total cost of \$142,360 each year from this requirement.

Sections 2 and 3 result in an annual cost to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) of less than \$400, an annual cost to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) of less than \$60 and an annual cost to constituent units of higher education that operate youth camps³ of less than \$150. These sections require youth camps licensed under chapter 368r of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) to establish Lyme disease and camper injury and abuse education programs. It further requires that these camps provide written components of these programs to the camps’ paid staff members, volunteer staff and the parent or guardian of each camper prior to the start of each youth camp session. There are five camps licensed under CGS chapter 368r operated by state agencies and one run by the Town of Rocky Hill. The fiscal impact to provide these written components will vary dependent on the number of campers and staff at each camp and are based on estimated costs of 10 cents to 60 cents per camper,

²According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bartonellosis is not a tick-borne disease. “*Bartonella* bacteria cause several diseases in humans. The three most common are cat scratch disease, caused by *B. henselae*; trench fever, caused by *B. quintana*; and Carrión's disease, caused by *B. bacilliformis*.” Information is available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/bartonella/>

³Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) operates ESCU Summer Camps and Youth Soccer Camp and Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) operates Summer Music Camps.

depending on whether the camps can pass these materials out to parents/guardians before session or if they must be mailed.

Section 4 results in additional revenue of approximately \$155,000 in FY 15 and \$26,000 in FY 16 to Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), a cost to DCF of \$22,133 in FY 15 and \$3,846 in FY 16, a cost to DPH of \$13,890 in FY 15 and \$14,515 in FY 16, associated costs to the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits of \$5,092 in FY 15 and \$5,321 in FY 16, a cost to the Town of Rocky Hill of \$100 in FY 15, a cost to the constituent units of higher education that operate youth camps of \$99 in FY 15 and a cost to DDS of \$33 in FY 15.

This section requires that directors and assistant directors of licensed youth camps submit to state and national criminal background checks prior to employment at the youth camp or prior to annual renewal of the youth camps license, with certain exemptions.⁴ It is anticipated that approximately 2,300 directors and assistant directors would need to be checked in FY 15 and 400 would need to be checked annually thereafter.⁵ DESPP will realize additional revenue of approximately \$155,000 in FY 15 and \$26,000 in FY 16 for performing these checks for private camps. Associated state and municipal costs are as follows:

1. For the Town of Rocky Hill, which currently conducts national criminal background checks for its one director and one assistant director, a cost of \$100 for a state criminal background check (\$50 per state criminal background check),
2. For DCF, a cost of \$16.50 for a national criminal background check of its one Wilderness School camp director (if performed on behalf of another state agency, DESPP assumes the cost of the state check),

⁴These criminal checks are not required if completed for immigration purposes not more than six months prior to employment/volunteering at a camp or if previously completed pursuant to this new language.

⁵As of 3/6/14, there are 5,535 actively licensed youth camp directors.

3. For DDS, a cost of \$33 for a national criminal background check of its Camp Quinebaug director and assistant director and
4. For the constituent units of higher education that operate youth camps, a cost of \$99 for a national criminal background checks of its six total camp directors and assistant directors.

This section also requires that licensed youth camps certify that directors and assistant directors are not listed on the state child abuse registry prior to performing their duties at the camps. Overtime costs for DCF associated with processing 2,300 state child abuse registry checks in FY 15 and 400 annually thereafter are \$22,117 in FY 15 and \$3,846 in FY 16.⁶ DPH is required to verify that these checks have been completed during the course of its inspections. This results in a cost of \$13,890 in FY 15 and \$14,515 in FY 16 to DPH for a temporary Environmental Sanitarian, full-time for three months of the summer, to accommodate the additional work per inspection and associated follow-up responsibilities for camps in violation of this provision. Costs for associated fringe benefits for this position are \$5,092 in FY 15 and \$5,321 in FY 16.⁷

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the interpretation of “members of the public” to be notified by DPH, the number of campers and staff at youth camps run by state agencies and municipalities licensed under CGS chapter 368r and camp director and assistant director turnover (triggering state child abuse registry checks and, potentially, state and

⁶The average time for a DCF processing technician to complete a check of a state child abuse registry is 16 minutes. The mid-range hourly cost for a processing technician is \$24.04. Overtime is time and a half or \$36.06/hour. DCF performed 137,270 registry checks in 2013 and as of 3/17/14 has a registry check backlog of approximately one month.

⁷The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.66% of payroll in FY 15 and FY 16.

national criminal background checks if not previously done).

Sources: The State of Connecticut eLicensing Website

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 204*****AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPERS' EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires licensed youth camps, by January 1, 2015 and each year afterward, to develop or approve a program on child and sexual abuse and inform staff, campers, and campers' parents and legal guardians about the program. It requires paid and volunteer camp directors and assistant directors to (1) submit to state and national criminal history record checks and (2) certify that they are not listed on the state child abuse or neglect registry.

It requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), by January 1, 2015 and each year afterwards, to develop and distribute information on Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. DPH must do this in consultation with specified organizations. The bill requires each licensed camp to use this information to develop or approve a Lyme disease education and prevention program and inform staff, campers, and campers' parents and legal guardians about the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014, except for the provision requiring DPH, by January 1, 2015, to develop and distribute the information on Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses, which takes effect upon passage.

CAMPER INJURY AND ABUSE***Program's Written and Oral Components***

Each licensed youth camp, by January 1, 2015, must develop or approve a camper injury and abuse education program. The program must include both written and oral components and include information on:

1. physical injury and sexual and emotional abuse;
2. identification of early warning signs associated with such injury or abuse;
3. proper procedures for notifying the (a) director, (b) assistant director, (c) injury or abuse resource counselor, or (d) other staff member of suspected or actual injury to or abuse of a camper; and
4. best practices for preventing and treating injury or abuse at the camp.

Before each camp session, the director or assistant director must distribute the written material to paid and volunteer staff and each camper's parent or legal guardian. The director or assistant director must present the program's oral component to each staff member and camper by the end of the session's first day.

Before each camp session, the director or assistant director must designate a staff member as the injury or abuse resource counselor. By the end of the camp session's first day, the director or assistant director must identify the counselor to campers and describe how campers should contact him or her.

The camp must allow a camper who (1) was the victim of injury or abuse or (2) witnessed such injury or abuse, or suspects that another camper has been injured or abused to report the injury or abuse anonymously, provided this does not violate state or federal law (see BACKGROUND). The camp must notify a camper's parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact within 24 hours after the camper reports such injury or abuse.

The camp must allow a camper to contact his or her parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact within 12 hours of asking to do so. The bill does not restrict these to contacts related to instances of injury or abuse.

Background Checks of Camp Directors and Assistant Directors

The bill requires both paid and volunteer camp directors and assistant directors to submit to state and national criminal history record checks, in accordance with Connecticut's criminal history record check procedure, before starting work at the camp, or, if already working at the camp, before DPH renews the camp's license (see BACKGROUND). It exempts directors and assistant directors who (1) successfully completed a state and national criminal history record check for immigration purposes according to federal law no more than six months before beginning work at the camp or (2) previously submitted to such a check for purposes of camp employment. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection may charge the camp a fee, as allowed by law, for conducting the state and national background checks.

Directors and assistant directors also must certify that they are not listed on the state child abuse or neglect registry before starting work, or if already working, before DPH renews the camp's license.

The bill requires DPH, when inspecting a camp's facilities, to verify that each director and assistant director (1) submitted to the criminal history record check and (2) certified that he or she is not listed on the state child abuse or neglect registry.

TICK-BORNE DISEASES***DPH Information on Tick-Borne Diseases***

The bill requires DPH, by January 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, to:

1. identify or develop best practices to prevent, identify, diagnose, and treat Lyme disease and such other diseases as bartonellosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis; and
2. through its website and publications, inform the public about these best practices and increase coordination among state and local agencies and health care providers.

DPH must do this in consultation with groups actively involved in the prevention of, and education on, Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, including various state health districts and the BLAST Lyme Disease Prevention Program (see BACKGROUND). Starting July 1, 2015, DPH must report annually to the Public Health and Children's committees on the status of these initiatives.

Camp Programs on Tick-Borne Diseases

By July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, each licensed youth camp must develop or approve a Lyme disease education program using the DPH information. The program must have both written and oral components and include information on:

1. identifying (a) ticks and parasitic or potentially harmful insects and (b) early warning signs of Lyme disease and such other diseases as bartonellosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis;
2. proper procedures for campers to notify staff members of suspected tick bites;
3. proper methods of checking for and removing ticks and potentially harmful insects, including whether to preserve them for further examination; and
4. current best practices for avoiding exposure to ticks and potentially harmful insects.

Before each camp session, the camp director or assistant director must distribute the written materials to paid and volunteer staff and each camper's parent or legal guardian. No later than the session's first day, the director or assistant director must present the oral information to each staff member and camper.

The bill requires camp directors or assistant directors to notify a camper's parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact within 24 hours after a camper reports a suspected tick bite.

BACKGROUND***Youth Camp Licensing and Inspection***

By law, people seeking to establish, conduct, or maintain a youth camp must obtain a DPH license. The license is valid for one year from the date issued. DPH must inspect a camp's facilities before issuing a license and inspect all licensees annually (CGS §§ 19a-421 and 19a-426).

Mandated Reporters

By law, certain persons must report instances of suspected child abuse. The report must include the child's name and certain other information. Mandated reporters include, among others, doctors; nurses; DPH employees responsible for the licensing of child day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes, or youth camps; and people paid to care for children in any state licensed public or private facility, child day care center, group day care home or family day care home (CGS §§ 17a-101 et seq.)

BLAST Lyme Disease Prevention Program

The BLAST Lyme Disease Prevention program was developed as the result of a 2008 DPH grant to the town of Ridgefield for a program on Lyme disease prevention and education.

Related Bill

HB 5040, favorably reported by the Committee on Children, makes paid youth camp directors and assistant directors mandated reporters.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 2 (03/04/2014)